[15th December 1953

"Self-respect" marriages.

*40 Q.—SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government to validate the "self-respect" marriages that have recently been declared invalid by the High Court?

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR:—"The Government are actively considering the undertaking of necessary legislation to validate such marriages as have already taken place."

SRI E. L. RAGHAVA MUDALIAR:—"Is the proposed legislation intended for validating only such marriages as have already taken place or will it validate marriages that will take place hereafter also?"

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR:—"It is not possible to validate marriages that will take place hereafter. Certain marriages which have already taken place were held not valid and we can only rectify that defect."

SRI M. S. MOGRAL:—"What kind of marriages come under the category of self-respect marriages?"

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR:—"Marriages which do not conform to Hindu customs and manners and other forms of marriages which do not come under any legislative Act."

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—"From the fact that the word 'self-respect' is put in inverted commas by the hon. Member who put the question, we must assume that it has some definite meaning. The meaning that we can give is the popular idea that E. V. Ramaswami Naicker's performances are called self-respect marriages."

SRI P. RANGASAMY REDDIAR:—"Sir, have the Government got any statistics showing the number of marriages to be registered?"

11-40 a.m. THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—"No statistics are available for the very reason that they were not registered. But there is a general impression from personal knowledge as well as otherwise that there are a large number of marriages celebrated by Sri E. V. Ramaswami Naicker and his friends, and those marriages came under discussion in a typical case recently, and the Hight Court decided that they were not legal. That decision would have affected the children in that case and in a large number of other cases. The Government are therefore intending to bring in a Bill before the Assembly to validate such marriages, and legitimize such children in spite of the decision given by the High Court. That involves registration, and hereafter, the law having been declared, there will be no need to deal with any new cases, because the registration will be there, and people will

know what to do to get a marriage legitimized even though performed in the way self-respect marriages have been performed. That is the position now.''

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—'' From the answer given by the Hon. the Chief Minister we come to the conclusion that self-respect marriages are those conducted by Sri. E. V. Ramaswami Naicker. May I know from the Government whether they will not discriminate against marriages conducted by his followers like Sri C. N. Annadurai, and that the marriages conducted by that group will be validated? ''

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—'' The question refers to self-respect marriages, and I have explained. So far as legislation goes, that will refer to marriages conducted according to Hindu usage or according to the civil law.''

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—'' May I know, Sir, whether there is any one in the Cabinet who has married under this new system of self-respect marriages? '' (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—'' A separate question may be put.'' (More laughter.)

Telugu language departmental test.

* 41 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state whether the residuary Madras State Government servants have to pass Telugu language departmental test (language) after the separation of the Andhra State?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—'' The matter is being dealt with. But I may add that it should not be assumed, that because of the Andhra partition, Telugu has altogether disappeared. There are a number of border areas in this as well as in the other State where the other language is being used.''

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—'' அண்மையில் நடக்கப்போகும் இலாக்கா மொழிப் பரீட்சையிலிருந்து தெலுங்கு மொழிப் பரீட்சையை எடுத்துவிட்டால் என்ன ? அதோடு இந்த இலாகா தெலுங்கு மொழியை ஆந்திர தேசத்தைச் சுற்றி இருக்கும் ஜில்லாக்களில் மாத்திரம் என் அமுலுக்கு கொண்டு வரக்கூடாது என்று கேட்கிறேன்.''

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—'' Sir, the hon. Member should know that service is one and whole, and young men are taken in, and then they are promoted, and moved from place to place. One cannot limit the territory of appointment for these officers, and, therefore, certain rules have to be made so that proper officers may, from time to time, be appointed to suitable places.''

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—'' Sir, have the Andhra Government come forward to reciprocate this compliment? ''

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—'' One must begin before expecting reciprocation.''